

How APEXBloggs was built



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Before We Start

- You will be on mute for the duration of the webinar
- We are now talking so please type a message in the Chat box in the Control Panel if you can't hear us!
- There will be a Q+A session at the end but please feel free to type your questions in the Questions box in the Control Panel in advance
- You will be sent a recording of the full webinar



About APEX Evangelists

- Founded in 2006 by John Scott and Dimitri Gielis
- Only APEX, with following services
 - Training
 - Solutions
 - Development
 - Consulting



About Dimitri Gielis

- Director & Co-Founder of APEX Evangelists
- 14+ years of Oracle Experience
- OBUG APEX SIG Leader
- ‘Dimitri.Gielis@AE’ in the APEX forums
- Presenter at ODTUG, OOW, UKOUG, OBUG, ...
- OCP 8i/9i/10g + APEX Certified
- Oracle ACE Director
- “APEX Developer of the Year 2009”
- Blog: <http://dgielis.blogspot.com>

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Dimitri Gielis 🏆



About Redgate

- Founded in 1999, privately held
- Based in Cambridge, UK with about 200 employees
- Annual revenues around \$40M, growing at 40% annually
- Red Gate tools viewed as the gold standard in SQL Server; use of Red Gate Oracle tools growing rapidly
- Strong focus on usability
- Full free trials of all tools
- Full support throughout evaluation and deployment

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Agenda



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Agenda

- History of APEXBlogs
- Why a complete rewrite?
- Development Process
- Use of specific APEX 4.0 features
- Make theme iPad compatible
- Deployment Process



History of APEX Blogs



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History Of APEXBlogs

- Show case what you can build in Oracle APEX
 - Out-of-the box functionality APEX 3.0/3.1
 - Enhance with JavaScript, JQuery, CSS, Intermedia, ...
- Support the APEX Community
 - Aggregate blog posts
 - Share interesting links
 - All interactive (rate posts, give feedback, write post, ...)



APEX Blogs Version 1



APEX BLOG AGGREGATOR

by Apex Evangelists

[Blog Posts](#)[Statistics](#)[Feedback](#)[About](#)[Login](#)

Search Interactive ☐ Between and Apex-only ☐ [GO](#)

Blog Selection [➔](#)

Mama! Help me! (dev)



[Dimitri Gielis](#)

05-FEB-2008 07:45

What do you do when you're looking at one of your "bugs" (for ex. in your APEX application) and you just don't see it?

Some people do:

- look at it again, keep looking at it, still looking at it, ...
- get mad about their pc
- start crying in front of their pc
- kill themselves without their pc

But you can also do:

- go for a walk and come back with a "fresh" head and have another look
- use Firefox and Firebug to track things down
- write down what's happening and is going wrong, you would be surprised to see you didn't see the "obvious"
- start talking about it to yourself or to another
- ask somebody else to have a quick glance at your code
- post a thread in the forum
- debug, trace, ...

I also sometimes think "this can't be true", what am I doing wrong? But then I think it's technology and you'll always find a way to get it working, it's just a matter of time...

We don't have that much time, as we all have tight deadlines, but some of the above points will help you to find the solution faster. And learn from it, put it into best practices so you don't make that mistake again.

YOU CAN DO IT! IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME! AND IT'S FUN!



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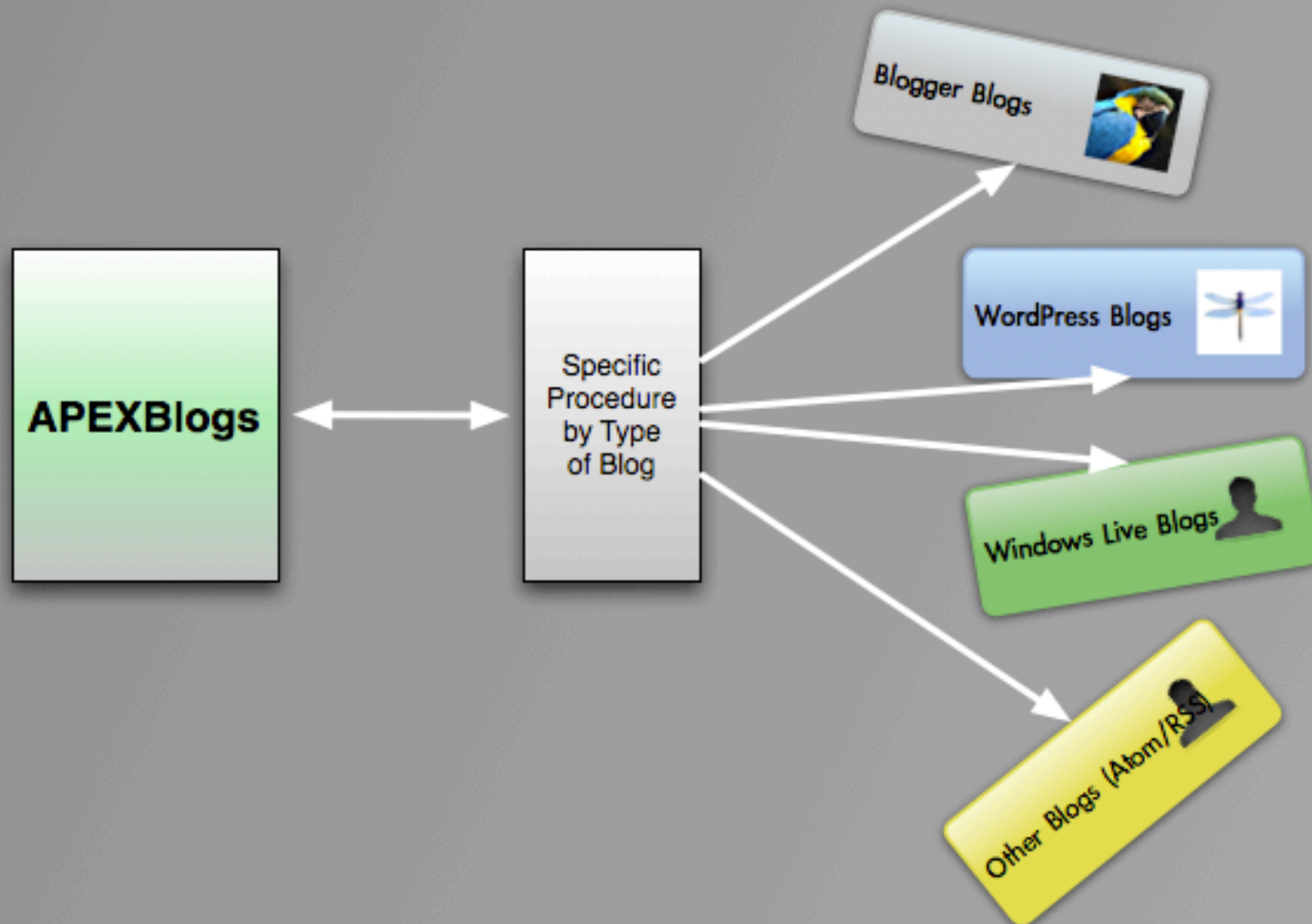
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General Apex Links

- [Apex Homepage](#)
- [Apex First time](#)
- [Apex Documentation](#)
- [Apex How To's](#)
- [Apex Discussion Forum](#)
- [Apex Wiki](#)
- [Apex Sourceforge](#)
- [Apex Frapp](#)
- [Apex Studio](#)
- [Apex OTN](#)
- [IOUG Apex SIG](#)

Why a complete rewrite?

Flow In APEXBlogs V1

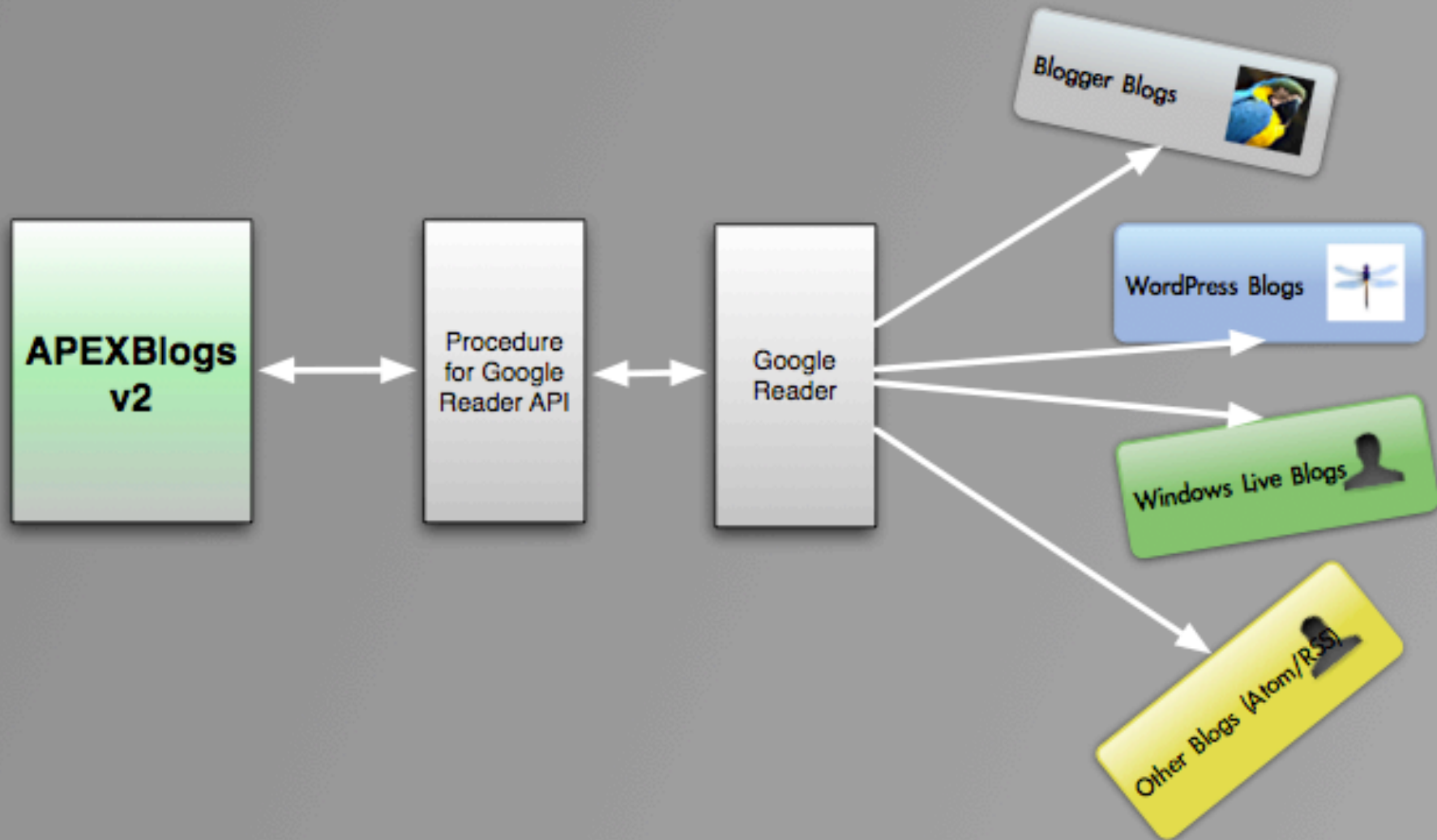


Issues With APEXBlogs V1

- The more blogs, the slower and resource intensive the process
- Different code for different types of RSS
- Difficult to maintain
 - Packages
 - JavaScript
 - “Hacks”



Flow In APEXBlogs V2



Solved In APEXBlogs V2

- One connection to update all blogs
- One code base
- More maintainable
 - Packages
 - Replace of JavaScript by build-in features of APEX 4.0 (charts, Dynamic Actions, Plugins, ...)



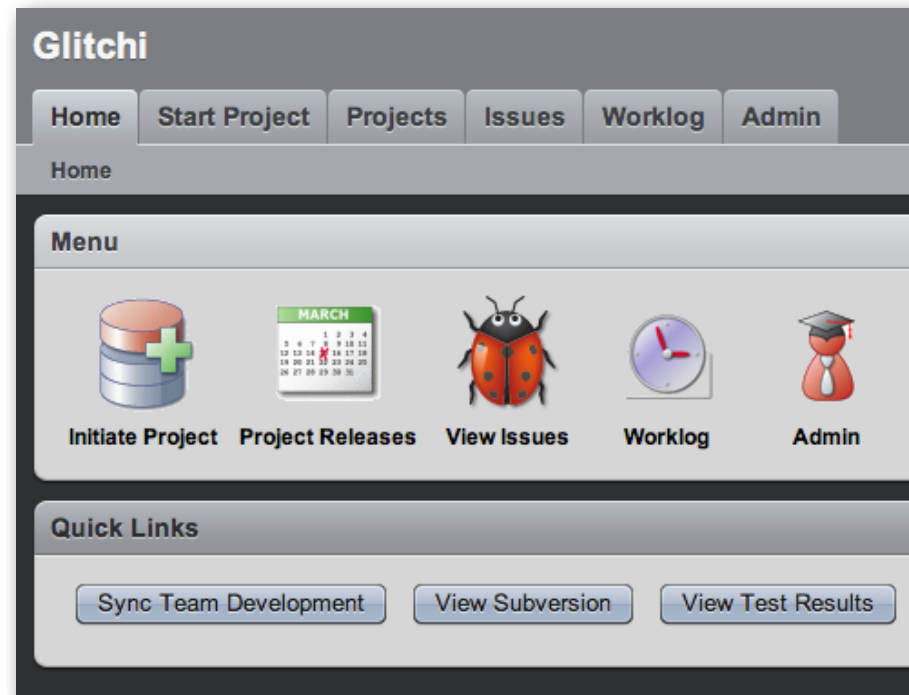
Development Process



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APEX Evangelists Dev. Methodology

- Treat every project the same
- Use of Automated Scripts and Glitchi



Move To New Infrastructure

- Servers in the cloud (@ Amazon)
- Oracle Linux
- Oracle Database 11gR2
- Apache with mod/plsql (testing Glassfish / APEX Listener)
- APEX 4.0
- Subversion and Dropbox
- Different backup and testing strategies (DB, APEX app, External files)



Setup new Project

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Coding Practices

- Use of Naming Conventions
- All code in packages
- Instrument heavily
- Procedure in PKG shouldn't take more than one page
- Reusable code (if possible)
- Javascript? Look for Dynamic Action and/or Plugin
- Add comments where necessary
- Use of external files



Use of specific APEX 4.0 features



APEX Features Specific To This Topic

- Interactive Reports
- Charts and Maps
- Feedback - Team Development
- Page Groups
- Plugins
- Shared Components (...)
- Advisor
- Substitutions - BASE_DIR

APEXBlogs behind the Scenes

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Make theme iPad compatible



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IPad Compatible

- Start of Theme 22
- Use of Coda to create HTML and CSS
- Customize Templates
- Specific CSS for iPad

```
<link rel="stylesheet" media="only screen and (max-device-width: 1024px)"  
href="&BASE_PATH./css/ipad.css" type="text/css" />
```

```
<link rel="apple-touch-icon" href="&BASE_PATH./images/apexblogs_icon.png"/>
```



Use Of Non-Flash Charts

- iPad doesn't support Flash

- Use of NFCharts

<http://www.apex-evangelists.com/nfcharts>



iPad demo

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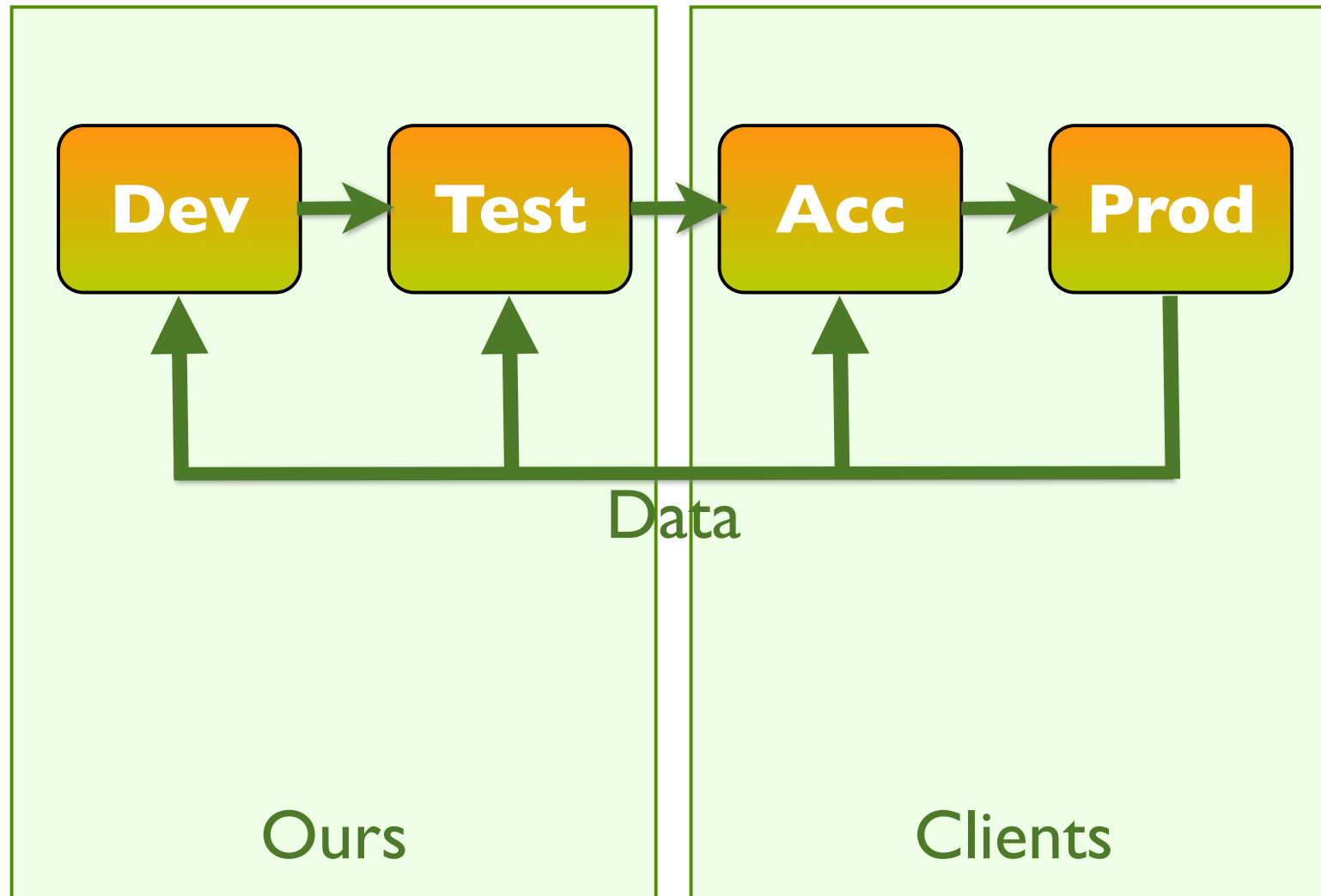


Deployment strategy



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Release Cycle



Two (or Three) Sides

- Database (Oracle Schema)
- Oracle APEX Application
- External Files



Full Setup Of Environment

- Automated
 - Just one script to run, based on project setup
 - Ideal for Test servers
- Manual
 - Import APEX application (with Supporting Objects ?)
 - Export/Import datapump
 - Copy external files



Patch Environment

- Depends level of Patch
 - APEX Page or Component?
 - Database Object?
- Need certain rules in place to be able to do it
 - APEX: Use same Workspace and Application ID (on different database)
 - DB: Use a schema compare tool to create the DDL (or keep manual scripts)



Schema Compare For Oracle (by Redgate)

SC Schema Compare for Oracle

File Actions Tools Help

New Project*

Data Sources Options

Source **Compare to** **Target**

☒ Database ☐ Snapshot ☒ Database ☐ Snapshot

TNS Connection Manual Connection Manual Connection TNS Connection

Oracle home: XE **Oracle home:** XE

Database:

Network Alias: XE Network Alias: XE

User name: sample User name: sample_bck

Password: ***** Password: ***** ☒ Save ☒ Save

Copy Switch Copy

Schemas: SAMPLE **SAMPLE_BCK** Refresh list

+ Add schemas to the comparison

Save Save As... Compare Now Cancel

Other Things To Think About

- Deploy with SQL Developer in Runtime only Environment (doesn't work with APEX 4.0 yet!)
- Use APEX Alias and/or Apache redirects
- Keep previous release but, make it unavailable (or redirect to the new one)
- Build Options



Deployment

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More Information



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Visit APEXBlogs

- Be part of the Oracle APEX Community!
- Go to: <http://www.apexblogs.info> and register



Try Schema Compare For Oracle

- Download 14 day free trial from <http://www.red-gate.com/oracle-development>
- Find out more information at the above address
- Speak with the Red Gate Oracle Team directly:
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 - UK free phone: 0800 169 7433 (switchboard)
 - USA toll free: 1 877 745 2604 (direct line)
 - Email: oracletools.info@red-gate.com



More About NFCharts

- More details, demo's and pricing information:
<http://www.apex-evangelists.com/nfcharts>
- Contact APEX Evangelists
 - Belgium: +32 16980162
 - UK: +44 113 815 2115
 - Email: info@apex-evangelists.com





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